

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 AID-10 RSR-01 /066 W

----- 118662

R 311306Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2810

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9180

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, CB, TW

SUBJ: WITHDRAWAL OF TAIWANESE PILOT AND ARTILLERY
INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAMBODIA

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 8831/2310000Z AUG 73

(B) SECSTATE 169876/260622Z AUG 73 (NOTAL)

(C) TAIPEI 5187/270846Z AUG 73

1. FANK COMMANDER IN CHIEF MAJGEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ
SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO ROC CHIEF OF MISSION
MICHAEL TUNG AUGUST 30. (OUR TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH).

2. QTE I WOULD LIKE IN THIS LETTER TO BRING TO YOUR
ATTENTION THE DIFFICULTIES THAT FANK IS ENCOUNTERING
AT PRESENT AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE ROC
PILOT AND ARTILLERY INSTRUCTORS.
QTE AS YOU WELL KNOW, IT WAS ENVISAGED IN OUR TRAINING
PROGRAM THAT WE SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO PRODUCE THE
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PILOTS AND ARTILLERYMEN IN
ORDER TO BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION. THIS
PROBLEM HAS BECOME MORE SERIOUS, MORE URGENT AND MORE
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COMPELLING AFTER THE CESATION OF AMERICAN AIR SUPPORT

ON 15 AUGUST 1973. THUS DELIVERIES OF U.S. MILITARY AID CONTINUE TO ARRIVE WITHOUT OUR HAVING ENOUGH SPECIALISTS TO MAKE USE OF THEM. THAT CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE THE PROBLEM IN QUESTION. QTE ALL THESE REASONS BRING ME TO TURN TO YOU, EXCELLENCY, WITH A VIEW TO ASKING YOU TO BE SO KIND AS TO INTERVENE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT MAY RECONSIDER THIS QUESTION IN OUR FAVOR. FOR THE REASONS CITED ABOVE, WE VERY MUCH WISH:

(1) THE RETURN OF PILOT AND ARTILLERY INSTRUCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC.

(2) TO OBTAIN THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OIV 15 ROC PILOTS IN THE USE OF OUR C-47 PLANES IN ORDER TO INCREASE OUR TRANSPORT CAPACITY. THESE PILOTS WOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY IN TRANSPORT AND RESUPPLY MISSIONS AND IN NO CASE WOULD THEY FLY COMBAT MISSIONS. THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY WOULD BE SIX MONTHS AT THE OUTSIDE, THE TIME REQUIRED FOR KHMER REPLACEMENT PILOTS TO BE FORMED. AS FOR THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR STAY IN OUR COUNTRY, THEY WOULD BE THE SAME AS BEFORE.

QTE EXCELLENCY, I HAVE THE FIRM HOPE THAT MY PRESENT REQUEST WILL RECEIVE YOUR FAVORABLE RECEPTION AND THAT YOU WILL NOT FAIL TO TAKE IT UP WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT. UNQTE

3. ROC MISSION INFORMS US THAT THE LETTER WAS DISPATCHED ELECTRICALLY TO TAIPEI ON AUGUST 30 WITH STRONG RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL, AND ACTUAL LETTER WILL BE POUCHED SEPTEMBER 3.

4. FOR AMEMBASSY TAIPEI: ROC MISSION HERE IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT WE DO NOT RPT NOT BRING UP THE SUBJECT OF RETURN OF POLWAR INSTRUCTIONS, BUT LIMIT OUR APPROACH TO THE PILOTS AND ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS ONLY. THEY ASKED THAT WE HOLD THIS IN CONFIDENCE AND NOT, REPEAT NOT LET GROK KNOW OF THE LOCAL MISSION'S ATTITUDE IN THE POLWAR AREA. THIS OF COURSE CORRESPONDS TO OUR OWN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INUTILITY OF THESE MEN.

5. APPRECIATE AND SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR DESIRE NOT TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF THE GKR WITH THIS PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, KHMER COMMUNICATIONS ARE GENERALLY SO BAD THAT IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE GKR MISSION IN TAIPEI CATCHES UP WITH SOSTHENE'S LETTER. GIVEN THE URGENCY, SUGGST YOU GIVE THE GQHD MISSION A COPY OF SOSTHEN'S LETTER, AND CONCERT ON WAYS

IN WHICH THEY AND WE CAN FOLLOW UP AND SUPPORT THE GKR
REQUEST.
SWANK

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NNN

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